IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A composition of mammalian common lymphoid progenitor cells, wherein at least 95% of the cells in said composition are characterized as c-kit^{lo}, IL-7Rα^{+}, lin^{-}; and wherein ~~said~~ an individual progenitor ~~cells~~ cell in said composition ~~are~~ is capable of giving rise to each of T cells, B cells and natural killer cells, but not to myeloid cells.

2. (original) A composition of mammalian common lymphoid progenitor cells according to Claim 1, wherein said cells are blast cells.

3. (original) A composition of mammalian common lymphoid progenitor cells according to Claim 1, wherein said cells are further characterized as Thy-1^{-}.

4. (original) A composition of mammalian common lymphoid progenitor cells according to Claim 1, wherein said cells are mouse cells, and are further characterized as Sca-1^{lo}.

5. (original) A composition of mammalian common lymphoid progenitor cells according to Claim 1, wherein said cells are further characterized as CD43^{lo}, HSA^{lo}, CD45^{+} and MEL-14^{-}.

6. (original) A composition of mammalian common lymphoid progenitor cells according to Claim 1, wherein said cells are genetically modified to comprise an exogenous DNA vector.

7. (currently amended) A method of enrichment for a composition of mammalian common lymphoid progenitor cells, wherein at least 95% of the cells in said composition are characterized as *c-kit*^{lo}, IL-7Rα^{+}, lin^{-}; and wherein ~~said~~ an individual progenitor ~~cells are~~ cell in said composition is capable of giving rise to each of T cells, B cells and natural killer cells, the method comprising:

combining reagents that specifically recognize c-kit, IL-7R□ and lin markers with a sample of hematopoietic cells; and

selecting for those cells that are c-kit^{lo}, IL-7Rα^{+}, lin^{-}, to provide an enriched population of cells having lymphoid lineage progenitor activity.

8. (original) A method according to Claim 7, wherein said sample of hematopoietic cells is bone marrow.

9. (original) A method according to Claim 7, wherein said sample of hematopoietic cells is mobilized peripheral blood.

10. (original) A method according to Claim 7, further comprising the step of selecting by size for blast cells.

11. (original) A method according to Claim 7, wherein said cells are mouse cells, and further comprising the steps of:

combining reagents that specifically recognize Sca-1 with said sample of hematopoietic cells; and

selecting for those cells that are Sca-1^{lo}.

12-18 (canceled).

19. (new) An isolated mammalian hematopoietic cell characterized as c-kit^{lo}, IL-$7R\alpha^{+}$, lin^{-}, wherein said cell is capable of differentiating into T cells, B cells and natural killer cells, but not into myeloid cells.

20. (new) The cell according to claim 19, further characterized as Thy-1^{-}.

21. (new) The cell according to claim 19, herein said cell is a mouse cells, and is further characterized as Sca-1^{lo}.

22. (new) The cell according to claim 19, further characterized as $CD43^{lo}$, HSA^{lo}, $CD45^{+}$ and MEL-14^{-}.